



Augmented



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Chapter 1 by Brock Thompson

James Andrew was born in the year 3071. Because he was born prematurely, he qualified for an advanced experimental surgery that gave him bionic and neuro-technical upgrades.

The upgrades worked.

Chapter 2 by JM



There are two key words to this story.

First, experimental. It's almost a bit of an understatement; before the scientists had turned him into the first human cyborg, they had made precisely zero attempts at applying their research to anything more biologically complex than a fetal pig.

The reason for that was simple: years earlier, the United World Government had criminalized any surgery that gives human beings abilities above and beyond what is considered organically possible. But those scientists had spent decades on their research and had no intention of complying with the law. Their work, they had argued, would save lives. It would improve lives. It would evolve humanity, bring everyone into a golden age of ability.

A cyborg age.

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The second key word is up

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By using that loaded word, the scientists made clear the fact that James was better than everyone else, full stop. He would grow up stronger and smarter and faster. He would outperform masters when he himself was just a layman. He would take over everything. Or so the general population believed.

Believing themselves to be at great risk, the general population rose to arms against what they perceived to be the greatest threat humanity had ever faced:

A newborn baby boy.

Chapter 3 by -



But once the babe was released for general viewing, people began to see the clumsy little guy as harmless. They saw him as a stupid, useless creation.

That is, until he turned two years old.

It was a typical day. People coming in and out of skyscrapers and domes. Everyone going about the great metropolis systematically. The city was in working order.

And then, it happened. In the year 3073, at the exact same time the babe (that is what he was known as) had come out of his surgery, he grew. And he grew, and he grew.

The babe quadrupled in size and could talk! He could work trigonometry like others work ABC's. He could recite the Laws of Physics, like others could count to ten. He could lift a dump truck full of scrap metal, like others could carry eggs...

The babe was no longer a clumsy, pudgy, dimpled little boy. He was a tall, muscular, intelligent man.

Chapter 4 by -



"Why do you all stare at me so? Am I not a man like you?" He had a very deep, entrancing bass voice. Women and girls immediately rushed forward, ready to serve.

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The townsmen looked at their wives and children, and they stepped up to them and dragged them back, a "safe" distance.

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But the women were spellbound, in a trance. They fought and made it difficult for the men folk to reason with them.

"Ladies, Gentlemen! Please, put an end to your skirmishes. Let there peace!" The man said, talking in soothing tones.

This time, it was the men and boys who rushed forward, as is offering themselves. "What can we do?" They earnestly asked the man. "Please, tell us!"

Chapter 5 by Skeld



The Augmented One.

That was James Andrew's new name. He slowly began to gather people. He was like a superhuman godly figure. His popularity just couldn't be curbed. Naturally, he became well-versed in Politics, Science and History. He started his own company, invented things and finally, at 20 years of age, entered Politics. He absolutely dominated his field. His oratory touched people's hearts. His party, The Freedom Party became one the most popular parties in recorded history. Slowly, but surely, he became the Vice-President. He was jokingly called the prodigal son.

It was 3096 when he broke bad. Nobody knew what came over him. As soon as he became the President of the Free Countries of Earth, several eyebrows were raised on the Universal level. Namely, the United World Government way up on Mars. Theirs was a completely different planet. It was a Democratic Republic, true. But the rules were different on the planet which was formerly red. Some argue that was the reason he broke bad, while some say it was his cyborg "background". Either way, he became a dictator. His first move was to have- what the old-timers used to say- a Big Brother Government. That was the moment when the people felt as though they've loved an alien. They felt betrayed. They felt as though they've been stabbed in the back. And they were.

In four years, his army was ready. His plans for the universal surge was ready. But he needed a provocation. And that came in the form of what else, but war.

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All we do is raid and loot. That's all. It's like the planets and us have a symbiotic relationship. They give and we take. Attack us at your own peril.

Well, any way, back to the story. So yeah. He captured us on one our raids. He took our Raid Leader into interrogation which I saw with my own eyes. He asked only one question- the true nationality of him. He answered. And that was it. He released us the very next day.

A month later. Earth declared war on the planet Asgard. It took the world by storm. A neutral country was being lead into war by one of the most powerful and ancient countries of the Mapped Universe. James played the victim card like a genius. His oratory was convincing. His reasons were too.

And so, at the dawn of a new century, the great war broke out.

Asgard struck first. A large space bombardment on the infrastructure of Earth on the commercial colony on HL-37. It was a brave move. The prime minister of Asgard, Michael Jardbrog made a morale-rousing speech.

It was only a few days later did the Admiralty retaliate. It struck Asgard's very core of infrastructure, it's oil resource. Two divisions of Hunter-39 dropped the legendary Guda bombs on the colony, completely demolishing it. One journalist compared it to the Destruction of Carthage by the Romans.

During all this, the Rogue had taken a back seat. The Augmented One's dictatorship had nothing to do with us. Until, that is, our Raid Leader committed suicide. That woke us up from our reverie.

Now, the space raiders will retaliate.

Chapter 6 by ArchAngel



The Augmented One had destroyed our Raid Leader's home world, Asgard, and it had crushed his spirit. We gave him a proper Spacefarer's funeral, his body atomized and scattered to the

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the team on Annefrank."That was all, but it was enough to get us excited. There could be survivors out there.

Annefrank is in the Asteroid Belt, its rocky surface shaped like a triangular prism. After the difficulties of proving our identity, a hidden docking hatch slid open. We were expecting a colony, but instead we found a group of twenty scientists who were working in secret on augmentation surgeries. Experiments outlawed by the United World Government.

It had now been 27 years since the experimental surgery that transformed James Andrew into the *Augmented One*. They had made some amazing breakthroughs since then, taking advantage of the earlier work and improving it exponentially. They were keen to show us the results. We were ushered through to a large white chamber.

In the centre of the room, a boy in a loose white robe sat cross-legged. Light blue circuitry criss-crossed his skin, giving him an alien look, and the back of his head seemed swollen. Three puzzle cubes hovered in front of him, their sides shifting and turning, but they weren't holograms, somehow they were floating. The boy looked at us with electric blue eyes, "Your arrival couldn't have been better timed."

Chapter 7 by Isabella Fox



"My name is Sioux" said the boy. "And the people of Annefrank are longing to fight back against the Augmented One and put an end to his reign of tyranny, but we need your help." We listened while he explained both his knowledge of the situation and his next plan of action. He had the mind of a grown and intelligent man, with the body of an 11 year old. He stated that the people of earth, Augmented One's followers, were not to blame because he has extremely manipulative capabilities towards those who have been around him, listened to him, and looked into his eyes long enough. He further explained, "Unlike Asgard, Earth now uses electricity supplied by nuclear power plants to power basically everything on the planet. We have intel from a source on earth as to where Augmented One is currently based and operating out of."

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getting within 5 miles altitude of the known coordinates, then land and capture Augmented One." Sioux explained.

"WHAT!?" Yelled Butch; one of the Rouge team gunners. "After everything this freak has done and you want us to CAPTURE him. We need to kill this dude!"

After Butch's outbreak, Sioux continued to remain calm and said: "I understand your frustration, but it is essential that you do not kill him. Augmented One has something of upmost importance in his body that must be recovered while he is still alive. If this item is destroyed, all the people that Augmented One has manipulated will continue to follow his ideology and all hope to save the people of earth are lost." Sioux continued. "Are you willing to risk your lives, not only save the people of Earth, but the whole universe?"

Chapter 8 by Grumpledorf



"The Rouge team is a part of the universe, so yea, we're saving ourselves"

"Excellent" said Sioux

We got on the X-17 and carried out the plan without any problems. Dragged the Augmented One and slammed him onto the operating table back at base. The moment we did, he stood up. We all pulled our guns on him but he didn't do anything. Sioux walked up to him calmly reaching out. The Augmented One did the same as if mirroring him. The moment they touched there was a small flash of light and subsequent pulses as if a large amount of data was being transferred. It stopped. The Augmented One stepped off the table. "I understand now" He said. "You understand what you have to do?" Sioux asked. "Yes. I have to protect life" The Augmented One's hands turned into massive guns, without hesitation he started spraying bullets at everyone in the room. Except Sioux.

"Good. Now carry out your next mission while I take care of Earth" Sioux said with the slightest hint of a smile.

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